

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/415,205
Attorney Docket No.: Q56197

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are all the claims previously examined in the Application. By this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1, 2 and 12 solely for the purpose of clarification. As such, these amendments do not narrow the scope of the claim and does not raise any Festo implications. In addition, Applicant adds claims 13-16.

Preliminary Matters

The Examiner has indicated in the Office Action dated November 5, 2002 that the Drawing(s) filed on August 27, 2002 is accepted. However, Applicant filed a Drawing Correction on August 21, 2002. Therefore, Applicant believes that the Drawing Correction filed on August 21, 2002 is accepted. If Applicant's belief is incorrect, the Examiner is respectfully requested to indicate so in the Next Office Action.

Prior Art Rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4 and 6-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,327,477 to Hachimura, (hereinafter "Hachimura") in view of newly found reference, U.S. Patent No. 6,097,968 to Bannister, et al. (hereinafter "Bannister"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider in view of the comments, which follow.

As claims 1, 2, 6, 10 and 12 are independent, the other rejected claims being dependent, this response focuses initially on claims 1, 2, 6, 10 and 12.

To begin, there is no suggestion or motivation to combine Hachimura and Bannister. The Examiner alleges that the motivation would have been to allow detection, notification and confirmation of communicable slave units for the processing of incoming calls (page 4 of the office action). However, it is respectfully submitted that a person of ordinary skill in the art would not look to Bannister, which teaches a complex connection technology, which entails connecting PBX to a central office to solve Hachimura's problem of a single wireless telephone connecting to a master station, which in turn connects to PBX or the public station.

Moreover, even if somehow combined, the references fail to teach or suggest the unique combination of elements as set forth in the independent claims. For example, claim 1 recites a unique combination of elements not found in the cited references, which combination includes a plurality of unit IDs in each slave telephone, each unit ID set to identify its slave telephone set. Applicant submits that the unique combination of claim 1 including at least the claimed plurality of registered unit IDs, each unit ID to identify its slave set is absent from both references.

The Examiner acknowledges that Hachimura fails to teach or suggest the claimed plurality of registered unit IDs. However, the Examiner alleges that Bannister teaches this recitation (see page 3 of the Office Action). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner.

In Bannister, a radio unit (RU) which is a wireless transceiver interfaces a wired analog trunk with a mobile telephone servicing office connected to a public switched telephone office. The RU stores multiple ID numbers corresponding to multiple telephones connected to the analog trunk through a PBX. That is, each MIN identifies a single telephone coupled to a trunk. On the contrary, in the invention of the subject application as disclosed and claimed, multiple

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unit IDs are stored in a single telephone so that a single telephone is identified by any one of the multiple unit IDs. One use of this arrangement is to allow a single slave telephone set to simultaneously communicate over multiple channels by associating plural IDs with plural communication channels. Thus, the teachings of the present invention can be visualized as the antithesis of the Bannister teachings.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Bannister fails to cure the deficient teachings of Hachimura, namely a slave unit having a plurality of unit IDs, each unit ID identifying its slave telephone set. Together, the combined teachings of these references would not have (and could not have) led the artisan of ordinary skill to have achieved the subject matter of claim 1. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 is patentable over Hachimura in view of Bannister. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection of independent claim 1.

Next, independent claims 2, 6 and 10 contain features similar to the features argued above with respect to claim 1. Namely, claim 2 recites *allowing for simultaneous assignment of at least two communication channels for a single telephone set*, claim 6 recites: *checking whether the received unit ID is of its own slave telephone set by the master telephone set*, and claim 10 recites: *unit IDs for the slave telephone set*. These recitations clearly indicate that unit ID refers to the ID of the slave unit and not to some other numbers such as NIMs in Bannister. Therefore, arguments with respect to claim 1 are respectfully submitted to apply with equal force here. For at least substantially the same reasons, therefore, Applicant submits that claims 2, 6 and 10 are patentable over Hachimura in view of Bannister.

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Also, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3-5 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1 or 2, claims 7-9 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 6 and claim 11 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency on claim 10.

Finally, independent claim 12, as now amended, contains features similar to the features argued above with respect to claim 1. Therefore, arguments with respect to claim 1 are respectfully submitted to apply with equal force here. For at least substantially the same reasons, therefore, Applicant submits that claim 12 is patentable over Hachimura in view of Bannister. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this rejection of independent claim 12.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 3 and 5 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in the independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant herein adds new claims corresponding to claims 3 and 5 including all the limitations of their base claims. In particular, new claim 13 and 15 is claim 3 rewritten in its independent form including all the limitations of the base claims 1 and 2, respectively. Moreover, new dependent claims 14 and 16 are identical to claim 5, including all the limitations of the base claims 1 and 2, respectively.

Conclusion and request for telephone interview

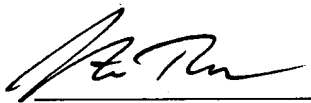
In view of the foregoing remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this Application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue

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which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

 *Reg. No. 43,958*

for Howard L. Bernstein
Registration No. 25,665

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

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